

PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN CALI-
FORNIA AND MATSUYAMA,
JAPAN

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, for over twenty years the City of Sacramento, California and Matsuyama, Japan have shared a special relationship as sister cities. This partnership has given birth to cultural exchanges that have enriched the lives of the residents in both cities. A new art exhibition that will be unveiled on July 6, 2002, is a testimony to this ongoing relationship.

The Miura Museum of Art in Matsuyama will unveil the "Serene Beauty: Lucie Rie Retrospective" exhibit to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the artist's birth. The exhibit features the work of Lucie Rie, one of the most outstanding potters of the 20th-century and a major influence on the world of ceramic art. The exhibit of Lucie Rie's exceptional ceramic work at the Miura Museum of Art in Matsuyama is only the second showing of her work in Japan.

This exhibit would have not been possible without the partnership with Sacramento residents who loaned the museum a large portion of the exhibit that will be displayed. Additionally, the museum has invited residents of Sacramento to participate in the exhibit opening and panel discussion honoring Lucie Rie and her passion for creating ceramic art.

I would like to commend each of participants who have loaned pieces from their collection in order to share their appreciation of art with the residents of Japan. The sister city partnership has developed into a friendship which complements the diverse background of the residents of Sacramento and Matsuyama and I look forward to the continued exchange of cultural treasures between our two cities.

HONORING RUFINA A.
HERNANDEZ, ESQ.

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the splendid efforts and notable accomplishments of an extraordinary woman in the 1st Congressional District of Colorado. It is both fitting and proper that we recognize this outstanding community leader for her exceptional record of civic leadership and invaluable service. It is to commend this outstanding citizen that I rise to honor Rufina A. Hernandez, Esq.

Ms. Hernandez has amassed a distinguished record of leadership and service to our community. She received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from the University of New Mexico and her Juris Doctorate from the Georgetown University Law Center. Ms. Hernandez practiced law for eight years at the Legal Aid Society of Denver specializing in Family Law, Public Utility Regulation and Consumer Protection. She served as the Executive Director of the State Bar of New Mexico and was previously the Assistant Dean for

Student Affairs at the University of Denver College of Law.

Presently, Ms. Hernandez is the Executive Director of the Latin American Research and Service Agency (LARASA), a preeminent community based non-profit organization dedicated to improving the health, education and self sufficiency of Colorado's Latino community. Under her leadership, LARASA has made a tremendous impact on our city and state by increasing awareness about issues affecting the Latino community and developing effective public policies and programs to address those issues. Ms. Hernandez has been a powerful advocate for change. Through her leadership, LARASA continues to bring tangible benefits to our community through the Center for Community and Behavioral Health, Centro de la Familia—the Latino Public Policy Center, the Data Resource Center and through the Proyecto Educar and Amigos de la Comunidad programs that increase cultural competency and Latino involvement in our schools.

Ms. Hernandez serves on the National Center for Law and Education Board of Directors, the Women's Lobby Board, the Colorado Association of Non Profit Organizations, the Child Health Advocates Board of Directors and the Governor's Utility Consumer Advisory Board. She co-chairs the Latino Jewish Coalition and the Latino Campaign for Education and also serves on the Mayor's Latino Advisory Council.

It comes as no surprise that Ms. Hernandez' commitment and service has earned her several awards including the American Jewish Committee Professional Award, the National Council of LARASA Special Advocacy Award, the American Jurisprudence Award for Academic Achievement, and the University of Denver Outstanding Staff Award.

While we are saddened that Ms. Hernandez will be leaving our community for a position with the National Education Association, I am confident that her leadership, skill and experience will be of great benefit to the cause of public education in our country.

Please join me in commending Rufina Hernandez, Esq. It is the strong leadership she exhibits on a daily basis that continually enhances our lives and builds a better future for all Americans.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY OF TONY AND
MURIEL MANSOUR

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two dear friends, Tony and Muriel Mansour, who will join with family and friends this Saturday, June 29th to celebrate their fifty years of marriage. My wife, Gayle, and I want to add our congratulations to Tony and Muriel on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

I have known the Mansour family since I was growing up on the east side of Flint, Michigan. The Mansour's lived one street over from the Kildee's, and the Mansour and Kildee children played together.

Mr. Speaker, both Tony and Muriel have been active members of our community in the

City of Flint and Genesee County for many years. Tony was a distinguished attorney for many years before being elected Genesee County Circuit Judge in 1968. He served with great distinction until he retired from the bench. In addition to resuming his successful law practice, Tony has been active in the Flint Rotary Club, being elected Club President in 1996. Tony is a past President of the Men's Club at Flint Holy Rosary Catholic Church and of the Knights of Columbus in Davison, Michigan. Tony has also been a leader in Flint's large and diverse Arab-American community, helping to found the Arab-American Heritage Council.

Muriel has been active in her own right. She has served as president of Heartbeat of Flint, as well as president of the Flint chapter of the American Business Women's Association. Muriel has also served on numerous community organization boards including the Children's Museum of Flint, the Catholic Social Services, the Genesee County Bar Auxiliary, the Flint Osteopathic Hospital Auxiliary, and Allegro (the volunteers for the Flint Institute of Music). For the past eight years, Muriel has worked as a volunteer at the Genesee-Lapeer Chapter of the Red Cross.

Mr. Speaker, the City of Flint and Genesee County is a much better place in which to live due to the efforts of Tony and Muriel Mansour. Gayle and I value them as dear friends and wish them well on the occasion of their golden wedding anniversary.

A TRIBUTE TO ROBERT WUSSLER
FOR 19 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH
THE RED CROSS

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to commend Robert Wussler for his 19 years of public service with the San Bernardino County Chapter of the American Red Cross. Under his leadership, the Red Cross chapter has quadrupled its budget and modernized its efforts to better serve the citizens of the Inland Empire.

Mr. Wussler began his tenure in 1983 as the accountant for the chapter in San Bernardino County, which is the main population center of my home district. After serving in that capacity for seven years, he became the chief executive officer of the newly created Inland Empire Chapter in 1990.

Since that time, the chapter has grown its budget from \$300,000 to more than \$1.2 million, and increased its staff from seven to 15 professional employees. At the same time, he has reduced the chapter's dependency on United Way funding from 83 percent in the 1980s to 5 percent today. The chapter is now computerized, centralized and very well organized, thanks to Mr. Wussler's efforts. It recently received a \$1 million gift from a special donor.

The improvement of the San Bernardino Chapter under Mr. Wussler's direction was recognized by the American Red Cross headquarters. Two decades ago, the chapter was considered near the bottom among chapters across the country. It is now ranked among the 100 best of 1,125 nationally. Mr. Wussler